

Message Text

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21

ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS ELAB, OAU, SL

SUBJ DISAFFILIATION OF SIERRA LEONE LABOR CONGRESS
FROM OATUU

REFERENCE: STATE 192236 (NOTAL)

1. AF HAS OBTAINED COPY OF LETTER OF 16 JULY TO DENNIS AKUMU, SECGEN OF ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN TRADE UNION UNITY (OATUU) FROM GEORGE PALMER, SECGEN OF SIERRA LEONE LABOUR CONGRESS (SLLC) IN WHICH SLLC SERVES NOTICE OF DISAFFILITATION FROM OATUU EFFECTIVE 13 JULY 1976.

2. REASONS FOR DISAFFILIATION CITED ARE A) ARTICLE 8 OF OATUU CHARTER WHICH STATES "MEMBERSHIP OF OATUU SHALL BE ONLY ALLOWED TO THOSE NATIONAL UNIONS WHICH ARE NOT AFFILIATED TO ANY INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION" IS IN CONTRAVENTION OF ILO CONVENTION 87 (FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION) AND CONTRARY TO FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION CLAUSE IN SIERRA LEONE CONSTITUTION; B) AT OATUU TRIPOLI CONGRESS, OAU ASST SECGEN RECOMMENDED THAT IN OAU MEMBER STATES WHERE UNIONS RETAIN INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATION GOVERNMENTS FIND MEANS TO ENCOURAGE DISAFFILIATION FROM OUTSIDE BODIES. SLLC LABELS THIS TOTAL DISREGARD OF FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AND AGAINST OAU CHARTER RE;

NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF MEMBER STATES;
C) OATUU CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE "USURPED" RIGHTS OF SLLC AT TRIPOLI CONGRESS IN NOT ALLOWING FULL PARTICIPATION OF SLLC DELEGATION; D) REQUIRED DISAFFILIATION FROM INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS OF NATIONAL CENTERS MAY LEAD TO DISAFFILIATION OF INDIVIDUAL UNIONS FROM INTERNATIONAL TRADE SECRETARIATS WITH CONSEQUENT LOSS OF AFRICAN INFLUENCE IN INTERNATIONAL LABOR; E) LITTLE SCOPE FOR SLLC PARTICIPATION IN TRIPOLI CONGRESS WHERE SLLC PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO OATUU CHARTER WERE IGNORED.

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3. FYI: SLLC HAS BEEN RECIPIENT OF AID FROM BOTH ICFTU AND AFRICAN-AMERICAN LABOR CENTER (AALC). POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT PALMER WILL BE ACCUSED OF BEING HATCHET-MAN FOR ICFTU AND PERHAPS AFL-CIO IN ATTEMPT TO SABOTAGE OATUU. WHILE PALMER EXPRESSED UNHAPPINESS WITH TRIPOLI CONGRESS TO AFL-CIO REPS AT GENEVA ILO CONFERENCE, HE DID NOT RPT NOT DISCUSS DISAFFILIATION FROM OATUU. MORE LIKELY THAT HE DID DISCUSS STEP WITH ICFTU ALTHOUGH THIS

NOT CERTAIN.

4. EXISTENCE OF COMPETING SIERRA LEONE CENTRAL ORGANIZATIONS, WHICH WAS ORIGIN OF SLLC PROBLEMS WITH OATUU, APPARENTLY NO LONGER AN ISSUE. RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM OFFICE OF SIERRA LEONE PRESIDENT STEVENS STATES SLLC AND SIERRA LEONE COUNCIL OF LABOR (SLCL) TO MERGE AT END OF MONTH WITH TRADE UNION ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR 1 SEPT. NOT CLEAR AT THIS POINT WHAT EFFECT OF MERGER WILL BE ON SLLC DISAFFILIATION.

5. ADDRESSEES ARE REQUESTED TO REPORT ANY TRADE UNION OR GOVERNMENT REACTIONS TO SLLC DISAFFILIATION, INFO ACCRA AND FREETOWN. ROBINSON

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To: ACCRA FREETOWN
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